was approved by the aforesaid Selection Committee. Thus, all the provisions made under the Act and the rules framed thereunder were adhered to.

Representation for extension of term of the wage boards for journalists and non-journalist employees

1035. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Trade Union Organisations of Journalists and Non-journalist employees of newspapers have made a joint appeal to the Prime Minister to extend the term of their Wage Boards without any change in the Chairmanship;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tentative proposals submitted by the wage boards are not that of Chairman Bachawat and its Members;

(c) whether Government propose to extend the tenure of Justice Bachawat till the completion of the work entrusted to him; and

(d) what are the reasons that the wage boards could not submit its complete report even after a period of three years?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) to (c) All India Newspaper Employees Federation and some other organisations requested the Government for extension of the term of the Wage Boards. The term of the Wage Boards has been extended upto 31-12-1988. The tentative proposals on wage rates and allied matters have been publicised by the Wage Boards.

(d) According to the Wage Boards, the reasons, *inter alia*, are that the Employers' and Employees' Organisations have been sending representations and making submission and counter-submissions till July, 1988 and a One-Man Committee consisting of an independent member of the Wage Boards could not submit its report to the Boards till 4th August, 1988.

Production of Prawn

1036. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'New Times' (Hyd) of the 19th October, 1988 wherein it has been stated that low production of prawn has hit exports of Prawn from Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for low production; and

(c) whether any steps are being taken by the Central Government to improve the prawn production in the country particularly in the Coastal States of the country and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Overall export of Prawn from India has not been hit as can be seen from table given below:—

In tonnes

Item	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Frozen shrimp	50349	49203	55736

However, as reported by Government of Andhra Pradesh catch by big trawlers off Andhra coast has gone down this year so far due to bad sea weather condition.

(c) Government of India have taken a number of steps to improve the prawn production in the coastal States. Some of the important steps are:—